

WEATHER.

(U. S. Weather Bureau Forecast.)
Probably occasional rain tonight and tomorrow; warmer tonight; lowest temperature about 42 degrees; gentle winds. Temperatures today—Highest, 54, at 3 p.m.; lowest, 35, at midnight.
Full report on page A-2.

Closing New York Markets, Page 22

The Evening Star

WITH SUNDAY MORNING EDITION

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(P) Means Associated Press. TWO CENTS.

PANAY MACHINE GUNNING BY JAPANESE VESSELS BRINGS ADDED PROTEST

Previous Reports Are Officially Confirmed.

TOKIO TO GIVE VICTIMS SALUTE

Bluejackets to Pay Tribute at Spot of Bombing.

By the Associated Press.

Secretary Hull announced today that official reports had confirmed that Japanese surface vessels machine-gunned Panay after it had been bombed from the air by Japanese naval flyers.

In making this announcement at his press conference the Secretary of State said this information had been transmitted to the American Ambassador at Tokyo for presentation to the Japanese foreign office in the form of representations to supplement facts already set forth in this Government's formal note of protest on the bombing.

Details Not Complete.

Mr. Hull gave no complete details of the information received by the State Department concerning the machine gun attack.

He merely stated that partial official information already received from American Government representatives in the Far East confirmed press reports of the incident as dispatched yesterday by newspaper correspondents quoting eyewitnesses at the scene.

Expected Further Reports.

Mr. Hull added that he was expecting further official reports at any time which may give more details.

He said that as additional facts come in they also would be presented to the Japanese government to support the information already set forth in American demands for full satisfaction.

Planes Dived at Survivors.

Although Hull withheld details of the information in the hands of the State Department, officials asserted it was confirmed that while the Panay survivors were escaping from the sinking ship in small boats, Japanese airplanes dived and machine-gunned the boats at low altitudes.

Bullet holes were said to have been found in the Panay's outboard motor Sampan.

Japanese Boarded Panay.

The State Department official advised it was added, confirmed also that before the Panay sank two Japanese Army motor boats approached the ship and machine-gunned it. Some of the Japanese, it was said, boarded the Panay and remained on it about 5 minutes, although the American colors were flying and were easily discernible.

The Secretary of State, indicating that this information makes the Panay incident even more serious than it appeared at first, said he still was awaiting a reply from the Japanese government to the formal American protest dispatched Tuesday.

JAPANESE PLAN SALUTE.

Bluejackets to Pay Tribute at Site of Panay Bombing.

TOKIO, Dec. 16 (P).—The Japanese navy ministry announced today that a company of bluejackets will be detailed to honor the victims of the Panay bombing at the spot on the Yangtze River where they were killed.

The formal naval salute will, authorities said, be the highest possible voluntary tribute of one nation to another.

Authoritative sources said the planned salute was not connected with the American protest against the attack.

The admiralty issued a statement reiterating Japanese regret over the incident, adding that the navy "has decided to detail a company of bluejackets to the spot to honor the dead."

It was announced also that sailors of the Japanese Third Fleet were collecting 5,000 yen (\$1,450) to be contributed to the United States Navy.

Hirota Seeks Settlement.

Foreign Minister Koki Hirota meanwhile announced to the Japanese cabinet council that the foreign ministry was trying to devise a "satisfactory settlement" of the Panay incident.

The adjutant at the navy office announced (See TOKIO, Page A-4).

FIRE AT NAVY YARD CAUSES \$500 LOSS

Short-Circuiting of 2,200-Volt Current Starts Blaze—Work Delayed Two Hours.

Short-circuiting of a 2,200-volt electric current started a fire in an oil-powered compensator in the central power plant of the Navy Yard today, causing damage estimated at about \$500.

The compensator is operated as a grating device for direct-current generators at the yard, and the fire damage prevented use of a considerable amount of the machine equipment in the east end of the plant. Operations were suspended about two hours.

Efforts were being made to determine the cause of the short circuit before current was switched over to an auxiliary generator.

A few moments charred the wood near the damaged machine, the blaze was quickly brought under control.

Capt. C. S. Rowan, captain of the yard, who was investigating the incident, said there was no indication of sabotage.

Chinese Slain Without Mercy In "4 Days of Hell" at Nanking

(Herewith is the first dispatch on the shambles of Nanking to reach the outside world since the Japanese occupation.)

By Radio to The Star.

By A. T. STEELE.

NANKING, via the U. S. S. Oahu, Dec. 15.—"Four days of hell" would be the most fitting way to describe the siege, capture and rape of Nanking.

I have just boarded the gunboat Oahu with the first group of foreigners to leave the capital since the attack began. The last thing we saw as we left the city was a band of 300 Chinese being methodically executed before the wall near the water front, where already corpses were piled knee deep.

It was a characteristic picture of the mad Nanking scene of the past few days.

The story of Nanking's fall is a story of indescribable panic and confusion among the entrapped Chinese defenders, followed by a reign of terror by the conquering army which cost thousands of lives, many of them innocent ones.

While the behavior of the Chinese before the city's abandonment was deplorable in many ways, it was mild compared to the excesses of the invading force.

All foreigners in Nanking are safe.

Japanese brutality at Nanking is costing them a golden opportunity to win the sympathy of the Chinese population, whose friendship they claim to be seeking.

After the complete collapse of Chinese morale and the blind panic which followed, Nanking experienced a distant sense of release when the Japanese entered, feeling that the behavior of the Japanese could not possibly be worse than that of their own defeated army. They were quickly disillusioned.

Although the Japanese could have completed the occupation of the trapped Chinese soldiers, most of whom had discarded their arms and would surrender, they chose the course of systematic extermination.

It was like killing sheep. How many troops were trapped and killed it is difficult to estimate, but it may be anywhere between 5,000 and 20,000.

Streets throughout the city were littered with the bodies of civilians and abandoned Chinese equipment and uniforms. Many troops who were unable to obtain boats across the river leaped into the river to an almost certain death.

Japanese looting made Chinese looting, which preceded it, look like a Sunday school picnic. They invaded foreign properties, among them the residence of the American Ambassador, Nelson T. Johnson.

In the American-operated University Hospital they relieved the nurses of watches and money. They stole at least two American-owned cars, ripping off the fenders. They even invaded the camp of refugees, stripping many poor of the few dollars they owned.

This account is based on the observations of myself and other foreigners remaining in Nanking throughout the siege.

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JAPANESE RECALL CHINESE SOLDIERS DISCARD UNIFORMS

NAVAL AIR CHIEF

Rear Adm. Mitsunami Is Withdrawn as Result of Panay Case.

By the Associated Press.

SHANGHAI, Dec. 16.—Rear Admiral Tetsu Mitsunami, chief of Japanese naval air operations, was relieved of his post today as a result of the bombing of the United States gunboat Panay.

Domestically (Japanese news agency), which carried the announcement of his removal, declared the Japanese government was acting swiftly to carry out its pledge to America to punish officers responsible for the attack.

It was explained that Mitsunami was recalled because most bombardments in China had been carried out by naval planes.

The rear admiral was ordered to go to Tokyo, but Japanese authorities here did not know what other action he faced.

Planes Attack Interior.

During the day Japanese Army planes carried the warfare into the interior with a series of attacks. Three columns of Japanese shock troops advancing northward from a point between Shanghai and Nanking entered heretofore quiet countryside.

One column advancing along the ancient Grand Canal threatened a number of rich, populous towns.

Foreign military and naval observers in Shanghai said they believed the Panay bombing and other attacks may have been made by young officers who had discarded efforts of commanders to control their actions.

A miniature fleet of American and British naval vessels bearing the three dead and most of the survivors of the Panay incident was expected to reach Shanghai some time tomorrow. The boats spent last night at anchor on the mine-strewn lower Yangtze and were to anchor again tonight.

Plan Triumphant Entry.

Japanese forces, meanwhile, planned a formal triumphant entry into fallen Nanking for tomorrow afternoon, while other Japanese columns continued their push into the interior.

Vice Admiral Kiyohiko Hasegawa was to lead naval forces in a parade from the Yangtze river front and Gen. Iwane Matsui was scheduled to enter the city at the head of an army parade through Chungshan gate.

Two hundred Japanese planes were to roar over the fallen capital in celebration of the "epochal achievement of Japanese armed forces."

Japanese officials announced that the American Embassy Building and other embassy and legation headquarters at Nanking were not damaged in the siege of the city. All Americans and foreigners who remained there were reported safe.

Cameras Report Conditions.

First American report on conditions at Nanking was received from Arthur Menken, Paramount newsreel cameraman who went through the siege.

Mr. Menken wireless from the American gunboat Oahu that "Nanking is a shambles."

"Except for the efforts of three American missionaries," he said, "the wounded were not cared for." He referred to Miss Ivy Hynde, Los Angeles, Dr. C. T. Trimmer, Long Valley, N. J., and Dr. Robert O. Wilson, Santee, Calif.

Mr. Menken said Japanese troops first reached the center of the city by making a breach in the southern walls and using scaling ladders. A bombardment of the eastern gate made it a virtual staircase of shell holes, he said.

HOUSE UNIT BACKS NEW HOUSING BILL TO HELP BUSINESS

Chairman Steagall Sees Passage Before End of Special Session.

FEW MAJOR CHANGES ARE MADE IN MEASURE

Insurance on Mortgages Extended to Include Property of Value Up to \$8,600.

By J. A. O'LEARY.

The administration's new housing bill to encourage investment of private capital in a home construction program by liberalizing the Federal Housing Administration mortgage insurance plan was reported favorably by the House Banking Committee today with few major changes.

Chairman Steagall announced steps would be taken to get it before the House following the wage-hour measure, and predicted passage before the end of the special session next week.

The bill broadens the base for insurance mortgages on owner-occupied homes, revives F. H. A. insurance for home repairs in the hope of creating employment and seeks to bring about the formation of national mortgage associations, with the aid of Reconstruction Finance Corp. financing, to provide capital for building construction.

Insurance Limit Extended.

As introduced two weeks ago, the measure would have allowed F. H. A. to insure mortgages at 90 per cent of the value up to \$5,400, instead of the 80 per cent insurance limit under the present law, thereby reducing the home-buyer's down payment to 10 per cent.

The House committee extended this feature by providing that on mortgages up to \$8,600, F. H. A. could insure 90 per cent of the \$5,400, and 80 per cent of the balance.

Another important committee change was to provide that, in addition to reviving F. H. A. insurance for repairs, the agency could insure the full amount of loans up to \$2,500 for construction of small, new houses, either rural or urban.

Senators Debate Changes.

Meanwhile, a subcommittee of the Senate Banking Committee continued to debate changes it may make in the measure, with indications the House will be the first to pass it. It appeared doubtful today whether both houses would be able to complete the housing measure before the Christmas recess.

The F. H. A. repair and modernization program expires April 7. The House bill would revive it until July 1, 1939, and make available the remainder of the \$100,000,000 limitation on the amount for this purpose. There is a \$10,000 limit on repair loans that may be insured. Repair loans may be insured up to 10 per cent.

In addition to reducing the home buyer's down payment by insuring 90 per cent of the value, the bill seeks (See HOUSING, Page A-4.)

The Evening Star

85 Years Old Today

This is The Star's 85th birthday. Eighty-five years ago this afternoon, on Thursday, December 16, 1852, No. 1 of Vol. 1 of The Daily Evening Star made its appearance on the streets of Washington, a city of about 40,000 population.

The first edition contained four pages, 16 1/2 by 11 inches. Part of the type was set in an office at Eighth and D streets N.W., part of it in an office on Sixth Street N.W. between Missouri and Pennsylvania avenues, and the printing was done on a small press of Sixth Street N.W., just south of Pennsylvania avenue.

Today's Star, No. 34,197, containing 68 pages, will be distributed to about 145,000 persons and read by many more.

Safety Zone Respected.

The Japanese refrained from shelling and bombing the safety zone which was set aside under sponsorship of American and German residents of Nanking. More than 100,000 Chinese sought refuge in the zone.

Despite the fact that Chinese troops were slow in withdrawing from the zone (See BATTLE, Page A-4.)

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Fire Alarm Charge Dropped On Man's Story of Dying Aunt

Health Officials Deny Ambulance Driver Refused to Take Woman to Hospital, as Stated.

Assistant Corporation Counsel Milton Korman today refused to issue papers against John Jordan, 27, colored bus boy, on a charge of turning in a false fire alarm after Jordan declared after the Public Health ambulance arrived. Jordan asserted an ambulance driver refused to take his aunt to the hospital yesterday morning on the ground she was not ill enough for hospitalization, but this was denied by Dr. Daniel L. Seckinger, assistant.

Jordan ran from his home at 906 Twenty-seventh street N.W. yesterday afternoon and turned in the alarm when he became convinced his aunt, Florence Wright, was dying. He met the firemen at the box and told him what he had done. The firemen went to his home, found the woman either dead or dying, and summoned an ambulance.

The woman was pronounced dead after the Public Health ambulance arrived. Jordan asserted an ambulance driver refused to take his aunt to the hospital yesterday morning on the ground she was not ill enough for hospitalization, but this was denied by Dr. Daniel L. Seckinger, assistant.

(See AMBULANCE, Page A-15.)

'ROBINSON' COUPLE BELIEVED JAILED

Izvestia Statement Interpreted to Mean Soviet Police Have Seized Pair.

By the Associated Press.

MOSCOW, Dec. 16.—Izvestia, organ of the Soviet government, said today that Soviet authorities "have taken measures to seek out an 'arrest' the missing couple known as 'Mr. and Mrs. Donald L. Robinson'."

This was interpreted in foreign circles to mean that the couple, who professed to be Americans, have been under arrest since their strange and unexplained disappearance last week, although the newspaper refrained from any such statement.

After publishing the announcement by the American State Department that the "Robinsons" entered Russia under passports obtained fraudulently, Izvestia said:

"According to information received by the editor, the Soviet authorities have taken measures to seek out and arrest the persons mentioned in the telegram (from the State Department)." The most puzzling question seemed to be the real identity of the couple and whether they actually were American citizens.

Federal agents in New York investigating for the United States State Department the issuance of falsified American passports to the "Robinsons" pursued a theory the couple were espionage agents allied with an American Communist group opposed to the present regime in Russia.

Referring to the New York investigation, Izvestia said: "The declaration of the State Department leaves little doubt we are dealing with some kind of suspicious persons who attempted to pose as Americans."

"Attention is drawn to the fact that American Trotskyites are connected somehow with the affair, and now the Trotskyites are hastening to pull out of U. S. IS ONLY 'CURIOUS.'"

Government Now Only Wants to Know Identity.

The reported arrest in Moscow of the mysterious "Mr. and Mrs. Donald Robinson" evoked a statement in a high official quarter today that the United States Government's interest in the couple now is confined solely to "curiosity" as to their real identity and nationality.

Since their American passports were obtained fraudulently, this Government assumes the pair are not American citizens. There is no occasion therefore, it was said, for any official action here in connection with arrest in Russia of the young couple.

This attitude will prevail, it was emphasized by a high source, unless and until the "Robinsons" are able to prove they are American citizens.

NEW YORK, Dec. 16 (P).—Inquiry disclosed today that affidavits upon which the couple obtained American passports to Russia were sworn to in the office of Albert J. Marinelli, former county clerk.

Marinelli, a Tammany district leader, resigned recently after Prosecutor-elect Thomas E. Dewey filed charges with Gov. Herbert Lehman that the county clerk was a "political ally" of ex-convicts and racketeers.

POSTAL'S TIE-UP ENDED BY ACCORD

Contract Concessions Won by Workers in Strike Lasting 3 Hours.

Members of the American Radio Telegraphers' Association ended a three-hour tie-up of the entire Postal Telegraph & Cable Co. system at 1:20 p.m. today. Officers of the union, an affiliate of the C. I. O., announced they received word company representatives in New York had promised certain concessions in connection with contract negotiations which have been under way for some time.

Called simultaneously at 10:20 a.m. today in six key cities of the Postal system, including Washington, the work stoppage resulted in a complete paralysis of one of the Nation's major communications agencies. As the effectiveness of the movement became evident through the company's inability to move traffic through the key offices, employees of at least four others were reported to have joined in the demonstration.

In addition to Washington, the offices affected initially were those in Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York, Detroit and Buffalo. Before the three hours were up union officers here received word that the company had agreed to a settlement.

Although no disorders occurred here, the Associated Press reported the arrest of two union organizers